

END THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Ms. SHALALA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I want to share the story of Doris, a constituent from Palmetto Bay, Florida. Doris works as an investigative program officer for the Department of Homeland Security. For over 27 years, she has devoted her life to the safety and the security of our community. Today marks the 34th day of this irresponsible shutdown. It also marks the 34th day that Doris will be going to work without getting a paycheck.

She has received notice that her department will miss a second pay period; something that her supervisor has told her will affect her retirement status.

This nightmare has affected her financially, mentally, and emotionally. She is terrified about having to default on her mortgage and not having enough money to cover her car payments or put food on the table.

Later today, Doris is planning to stand in line at a nearby parking lot to receive a head of lettuce and some tomatoes from a local food bank. Is this what the administration thought of when they initiated this shutdown? Is this what the greatest country in the world has succumbed to?

It angers me to know that Doris is being used as pawn to fulfill a campaign promise. Madam Speaker, I say to the President that we do our jobs and he does his. Open the government.

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(Ms. MATSUI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, across this country and in my hometown of Sacramento, President Trump is inflicting unnecessary harm to our Federal workers, our economy, and the health and safety of the American people.

I have heard from my constituents across my district that this shutdown is disrupting their lives. Many Federal workers are frustrated. They just want to return to work. Yet, now they can't work, or they are working without pay. They can't pay their bills. The consequences of this shutdown affect us all.

I have heard from a U.S. Coast Guard veteran who answered the call to serve his country for over 20 years and retired with honors. Now, because of the shutdown, his pension isn't being processed. He is worried about his bills, and is heartbroken that this country he served for so many years is not honoring its promise to take care of him in return.

Another person who is a TSA agent working without pay at Sacramento's airport said it is hard to concentrate at

work when she is thinking about the bills stacking up. She is able to pay for January's rent with savings, but if this shutdown continues through February, she will not have enough money for rent, leaving her to choose between being evicted or moving out on her own and becoming homeless.

Our Federal workers deserve an employer that honors its promises and provides for its workforce. It is time for President Trump and Majority Leader McCONNELL to fully fund the government and put an end to the pain and suffering of the American people.

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(Mrs. LEE of Nevada asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the people of Nevada's Third District, I rise again to say it is time to end this shutdown. My office is currently working with a couple, both of them Federal workers, one of them a veteran, who are furloughed and now being evicted because of this unnecessary shutdown.

Nevada's SNAP and housing authority are preparing to draw on their reserves to make up for the lack of Federal funding. Over 400,000 Nevadans will face devastating consequences if these programs run out of money.

Our Governor just asked our higher education board to step in and protect Nevada's college students from penalties, and the speaker of our legislature just introduced a bill to protect Federal workers from debt collectors and landlords. Get the picture?

We are now stressing our State and local governments because our President and our Senate cannot step up and do their job. This shutdown has gone on far too long. My colleagues and I just voted for the 11th time to reopen the government. I ask the Senate and the President to do their duty and open it up now.

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THE SHUTDOWN STRUGGLE

(Mrs. LOWEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, Federal workers should not have to struggle to pay their bills just because my colleagues across the aisle and the President refuse to end the Trump shutdown. They should not be in a position of having to apply for unemployment while continuing to work without pay, which is exactly what one of my constituents from Westchester County, New York, has been forced to do.

Others in my district, nonprofit employees, working reduced hours because of the shutdown, have been forced to rely on food donations to feed their families.

It is inexcusable that Republicans have rejected 11 opportunities to end the Trump shutdown, pay workers, and reopen government. I urge them to come to their senses and reopen government without further delay.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN IMPACT ON WORKERS AND CONSTITUENTS

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, a week ago, we had a roundtable in my district, and we invited, including Madam Speaker today, to come and listen to the workers.

Tamara, who works for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, said that she is trying to figure out how to tell her son that he is not going to be able to have his birthday party. She is a young widow, single mother.

Veronica said that she has to take care of her parents and has to pay for their medicines and their copays, and it is really hard.

Lori said that workers at the IRS are trying to figure out how to pay for gas to get to work, parking, and childcare. And the taxpayer assistance office is closed, even though we have a new tax bill.

Kevin said the morale at the Bureau of Prisons is really tough. He lives 50 miles from work and is just about out of gas money.

Crystal said: We are public servants. We are not public slaves.

And Florence, who helps people get food stamps, is applying for them herself and waited 3 hours at a food pantry.

Madam Speaker, we need to get rid of the shutdown and pay the workers now.

SHUTDOWN STORIES

(Ms. LEE of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to echo the pain and suffering experienced by Federal workers and their families in my district during this reckless McConnell-Trump shutdown and also the important work that they do as public employees.

One is a constituent who is a proud African American TSA agent out of the Oakland airport, who has been working without pay for more than a month. He must pay to get to work, though, buy his own lunch and gas, but has no paycheck coming in. He can't borrow from his family because eight of his relatives also work for the Federal Government.

His story resonates with so many African Americans who work for the Federal Government. But now with this shutdown, the Black community has been deeply affected, like everyone else.

While African Americans account for 12 percent of the population, 18 percent

of the Federal workforce is African American. This is, of course, due to discrimination against African Americans in the private sector. The Federal Government has provided good-paying jobs and a path into the middle class.

My grandfather worked for the Postal Service. He was a letter carrier. My mother worked for Social Security.

Another constituent has been furloughed from the Food and Drug Administration. He told me that he and his husband both rely on their incomes to afford rent on their one-bedroom apartment.

I urge President Trump and Senator MCCONNELL to stop playing games with people's lives. Let's reopen the government and get workers the paychecks that they deserve.

THE SHUTDOWN HURTS NEW JERSEY FAMILIES

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, 34 days into the Trump shutdown, New Jersey families are hurting: 5,000 Federal workers have lost their paycheck; millions more are being harmed by the closure of critical services.

In my district in Edison, many EPA employees are being prevented from doing their jobs. These dedicated public servants help clean up contaminated sites. They keep our drinking water safe. Meanwhile, at the NOAA lab at Sandy Hook, they are unable to conduct urgent research on climate change.

One of my EPA workers said: "Mr. President, please open the government. Do your job so we can do our job." I couldn't agree more.

Members of the Coast Guard at Sandy Hook in my district are going without pay. These are the men and women who risked their lives to keep us safe during Superstorm Sandy, and they deserve a paycheck.

An IRS worker from my district said: "This is the first time in my life that I have ever had to go to a food bank for food. Not knowing where food is coming from is scary." And she went on to say that she fears being evicted from her apartment. This is an IRS worker.

Madam Speaker, House Democrats have voted 11 times on bipartisan legislation. It is time to open the government, Mr. President.

THE IMPACT OF THIS UNPRECEDENTED SHUTDOWN

(Ms. STEVENS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today for the people suffering the consequences of this shutdown. I rise today for our great country and for the belief in our great government. I rise for our neighbors, our friends, and all our taxpayers.

The impact of this unprecedented shutdown, the longest in our history, has had real and deeply concerning impacts on our families, particularly in Michigan. It is also posing serious threats to our national security and safety.

Tim Mach of Waterford, Michigan, a professional aviation safety specialist, has been working diligently throughout this shutdown. He is doing the best he can with the materials he has to ensure our airplanes are safe, but he is unable to access the parts for the planes that are damaged.

The longer this shutdown drags on, the more dire these types of operations become. For the well-being of our public servants and the safety of our country, the government must open today.

Madam Speaker, I rise today from this body as his voice, imploring the less than 600 among us who have been elected to this Federal Government to open this government now.

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS SUFFER THROUGH THE SHUTDOWN

(Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Madam Speaker, on this, the 34th day of the longest shutdown in American history, I sat down with a group of air traffic controllers in my office today.

These workers told me about how an already stressful job has been made even worse by this shutdown, that many of them are working 6 days a week, 10 hours a day with no pay.

They know that their work requires no mistakes because it is life and death, but to make matters even worse, 30 percent of them are already stretched thin and currently are eligible to retire, and many are considering retiring earlier so that they can at least get a paycheck.

In the words of Ranika, one of the air traffic controllers: This shutdown is the perfect storm for a national emergency.

Madam Speaker, the collateral damage of this shutdown is difficult to fathom, but this much is clear: Every day that goes by, we are less safe, our economy is more weakened, and all Americans from all backgrounds suffer.

This must end. Open the government.

HUNDREDS HURT BY SHUTDOWN

(Mr. AGUILAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AGUILAR. Madam Speaker, we are now in day 34 of the longest shutdown in American history.

Over the course of this shutdown, I have heard from hundreds of people in my community who are being hurt by this reckless shutdown. Today, I would like to share the story of Graciela, who wrote to me from my hometown of Redlands.

Graciela has worked for the IRS for over 40 years, and her Federal job allows her to care for her daughter, who is suffering from thyroid cancer. Graciela wrote to me and said: "Each missed paycheck is another 2 weeks that my daughter will go without medication and treatment."

It is outrageous that, in the face of this type of suffering, real human suffering, our President can remain so callous.

We have voted 11 times to reopen this government, but instead of working with us to end this shutdown, the President and Leader MCCONNELL continue to move the goalpost and insist on funding for their ineffective and wasteful border wall and cuts to legal immigration.

Our country deserves better than leaders who are willing to hold their people hostage.

Graciela concluded her message to me by saying this: "The President's misconceived notion that this country needs a wall more than its own citizens need to go back to work or to be paid for the work they are doing is mind-boggling."

Madam Speaker, Americans are suffering and deserve better.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

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(Mr. BROWN of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I rise to demand, insist, and beseech President Trump to end this shutdown now and open the Federal Government.

I represent the fifth largest number of Federal Government employees. Every day I see, I hear, and I feel the pain and suffering of the Federal Government employees and contractors in my neighborhoods and my communities. One out of every ten residents in my Maryland district live in a household headed by a Federal Government employee or contractor.

This Monday at a community event supporting our Federal employees, I met a woman with her 2-month-old infant child. She is an essential employee at the Food and Drug Administration. She needs to be and wants to be on the job, but she simply can't. She can't because she can't afford to pay for childcare for her infant daughter.

She is having difficulty paying for groceries, providing lunch money for her two elementary school-aged boys, and is on the verge of not being able to pay either her rent or her car note.

She was sobbing uncontrollably. She was weeping painfully, and pleading for you, Mr. President, to open the government, to let her work with dignity, to support her children, and to do her job.